

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP

REF: BA 5656

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES DETAILED REPORTING IN REFTEL
ON ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

2. CABLE RAISED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON WHICH CLARIFICATION
WOULD BE HELPFUL:

A) MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS REPORTED: WITH REFERENCE
TO THE "OTHER PERMANENT ASSEMBLY LEADER" WHO WAS TORTURED
AT TIME OF INTERROGATION, DID THIS OCCUR IN 1977? OTHER
EXAMPLES OF MISTREATMENT GIVE TIME WHEN SUCH BRUTALITY
OCCURRED. TIME SETTING IS HELPFUL BECAUSE IT ALLOWS
DEPARTMENT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND TRENDS IN ARGENTINE HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION.

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B) NEW DRUG REPORTED INTRODUCED: DEPARTMENT REALIZES
THE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING CORROBORATING INFORMATION
ON A QUESTION AS SENSITIVE AS USE OF "KETALAR", BUT
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANY FURTHER SUBSTANTIATION OF THE
DRUG'S USE WHICH EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN. WOULD
PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE BEST INDICATION POSSIBLE OF

MAGNITUDE OF CURRENT ELIMINATION OF TERRORISTS AND
SUBVERSIVES.

C) JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES PROBLEMS: HAVE THERE BEEN
CONTINUING ARRESTS OF WITNESSES OR HAS GOA LIMITED ITS
REACTION TO LESS DIRECT HARASSMENT.

D) RED CROSS ACTIVITIES-TORTURE REPORT: IS IT EMBASSY'S,
AS WELL AS ICRC'S, IMPRESSION THAT TORTURE OF PRISONERS
OCCURS IN 90 PERCENT OF POLITICAL PRISONER ARRESTS,
AND DOES IT APPEAR TO BE CONTINUING AT THIS RATE WITH
REGARD TO NEW ARRESTS?

E) ESTIMATED PRISON POPULATION:ICRC FIGURES FOR PEN
PRISONERS ADD UP TO 3452; IS THIS ROUGHLY THE SAME AS
PRESENT EMBASSY ESTIMATE?

F) DAM PRISONERS: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS SAID THERE
MAY BE AS MANY AS 8,000 UNACCOUNTED FOR PRISONERS IN
ARGENTINA. SECURITY FORCE SOURCES STATED DAM TOTAL
DOES NOT EXCEED 500, WHICH FIGURE IN EMBASSY OPINION
IS CLOSER TO FACT, AI OR SECURITY FORCES?

G) THE TIMERMAN CASE: DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TOLD BY HIS
FRIENDS THAT TIMERMAN'S DENTIST DID MAKE A PROFESSIONAL
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CALL. IS THIS RIGHT? CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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